



President  
*Albert Woolbright, PhD*

President Elect  
*Stacey Adams*

Vice President  
*Jamie Manning*

Immediate Past President  
*Ricky Elliott*

Recording Secretary  
*Niko Phillips*

Corresponding Secretary  
*Marjean Deavers*

Treasurer  
*Ross Hudson*

Delegate-APHA  
*Paula S. Clark*

Alternate Delegate-  
APHA  
*Brenda Causey*

Delegate-SHA  
*Susan Bland*

Alternate Delegate-SHA  
*Michele Jones*

State Health Officer  
*Donald E. Williamson, MD*

Dean, UAB School of  
Public Health  
*Max Michael, MD*

ALPHA Web Site:  
[www.alphassoc.org](http://www.alphassoc.org)

Mailing Address:  
P. O. Box 990  
Montgomery, Ala.  
36101-0990

Newsletter Editor  
*Arrol Sheehan*

## *President's Message*

Each decade the nation publishes health objectives for the next 10 years. The Healthy People 2010 Objectives contain the goals and objectives for the nation for this decade. Alabama has similar goals which were published in Healthy Alabama 2010. Many of our targets appear unreachable, with only a little over a year to go until 2010. For example, we have made little progress in increasing life expectancy. Our goal was 76.8 years and we were only at 75.1 in 2006. Our most recent infant mortality rate was 10.0 per 1,000, well above the target of 7.9 we had set for 2010.

Recent data is discouraging in regard to lifestyle changes which we had proposed changing for 2010. Our population is still one of the most sedentary and obese in the nation. Our smoking rate is also higher than we would like. In addition, unplanned pregnancies are still high at nearly 50 percent of pregnancies. This is well above the 40 percent projected in Healthy Alabama 2010. The percent of infants born at low birthweight (less than 5 pounds 8 ounces) continues to rise and we are unlikely to reduce it to the 8.4 percent that had been targeted for 2010. In addition, there has been a significant decrease in the percent of mothers receiving adequate prenatal care in the last three years. The 90 percent target looks unrealistic for 2010.

This has been a challenging decade. Our health rankings on most indicators locate us in the bottom five states. For example, the 2007 report from Kids Count ranked Alabama 48th.

Our poor rankings are due to the lack of resources devoted to education and improving the quality of our human resources. Alabama is blessed with a wonderful climate and abundant natural resources. We have a beautiful state with a lot of potential. We need to work harder to make the potential reality.

Turning to ALPHA, I proposed to the board that we set a goal of having 600 persons attend our annual meeting and a membership of 1,000. Given our present status that may seem overly ambitious. However, there are members of ALPHA who can remember when our organization reached and exceeded these numbers. Obviously, we are not going to attain these numbers in one year or even two or three years, but we need to keep chipping away at the mountain and maybe in five or ten years we can make our goal.

My goal for our meeting in Mobile is to have at least 250 registered atten-

*continued on page 3...*



## *Public Health stands as a moral bulwark protecting a moral society*

Garrett Hardin, author of “The Tragedy of the Commons,” and William Golding, who wrote *Lord of the Flies*, each give us chilling insights into human behavior in stressful and uncertain environments. Hardin warns of the consequences of our unwillingness to share limited resources and Golding portrays the savagery of the loss of a civil society.

The collapse of the nation’s premier financial institutions and the housing market coupled with crushing gas prices and soaring federal deficits have stressed the U.S. economy in ways not felt in more than four generations. No doubt the complexity and interdependence of our economic systems will require years before the plethora of causes can be assigned or recovery will be complete. In the meantime, we are challenged to avoid the predictions of human behaviors from Hardin and Golding.

We pride ourselves on the ruggedness of the individual, on the ability of the individual to tighten the belt until better times arrive. It is an idyllic notion born of the days when the nation was young and survival was largely determined by the drive to simply push through. That was before the production and distribution of food, clothing, shelter, education, and jobs was controlled by multinational corporations birthed by Darwinian capitalism.

As we confront the realities of an emerging new economy of limited resources we can ill afford to permit a naïve American concept of the individual to transform our society into one characterized by selfish consumption and brutal domination of others. The very basis of society – the willingness to invest in the health and well being others – must be preserved first and foremost. In what may well become a new reality, public health professionals – academic and practitioner alike – stand as our moral bulwark protecting the deepest roots of a moral society. Mounting economic uncertainties have the potential of unleashing our most selfish instincts at a time when just the opposite reactions are required.

The genesis, development, and survival of a just, civil, and equitable society depend on our collective embrace of every person who makes up that society. And, it is public health that in no small measure has the tools, perspective, and moral imperative to provide the vital collective leadership in these difficult times. We simply cannot permit the 90’s bumper sticker slogan, “He who dies with the most toys, wins,” to surface as a strategy for grappling with limited resources as a result of our financial crisis.

Max Michael, M.D.  
Dean, UAB School of Public Health

## *Bylaws revision proposed to add college student position*

The ALPHA Board has approved the following bylaws revision which will be brought before the business session at the 2009 Conference for a vote. The UAB School of Public Health is active in the association and has shown interest in serving on the board. This is the proposed revision:

*Article VII/Section 1 C. College Student Position – This voting position on the board will be filled by the Public Health Student Association of the UAB School of Public Health. This may be the Student Government Association President or an appropriate designee.*

# Plan now for 2009 Conference, March 26-27



Planning is well underway to ensure a great conference experience for all who attend the Alabama Public Health Association's 53rd Annual Health Education Conference in the Port City of Mobile. The conference schedule begins with registration, opening of exhibits and unveiling the silent auction from 7 to 8 a.m. Thursday, March 26.

The opening plenary session follows, with two sets of break-out sessions beginning at 10:15 a.m. From the complimentary hot breakfast for guests who stay at the conference hotel, the Ashbury Hotel and Suites, to numerous presentations that will pique your interest, expect a worthwhile and entertaining conference. The University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health will sponsor a reception Thursday evening.

Vice President and Program Chair Jamie Manning notes that the specially catered meals will include an awards luncheon that will feature either ribeye steak or vegetarian choices. Parking is free at the Ashbury Hotel, and a shuttle van is available to transport hotel guests to nearby shopping malls. David Mann is the local arrangements chairman.

New for 2009, for the first time ever, ALPHA will be going to an all on-line registration. Be on the lookout for conference registration information in early 2009.

Room rates are very affordable. Call now to reserve a room at the reduced ALPHA rate of \$70 for a standard room with an external entrance, \$80 for a deluxe room or \$110 for a suite. Be sure to reference the Alabama Public Health Association.

**Ashbury Hotel and Suites**  
**Mobile, Alabama**  
**800-752-0398**

The Alabama Department of Public Health is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Alabama State Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. The Alabama Department of Public Health is also approved by the Alabama Board of Nursing (ABN) to provide continuing education for nurses (ABN provider number expires on December 5, 2010). **Nurses must have their license to scan for CE to be awarded.**

## ***President's Message***

*continued from page 1...*

dants. I hope that we will have over 500 members at the end of my term, which will put us half way to our goal of 1,000. To reach goals requires hard work and commitment. Please encourage at least one person to join ALPHA and attend the annual meeting. Vice President Jamie Manning is preparing an exceptional program that you don't want to miss.

See you in Mobile on March 26th and 27th.

Albert Woolbright, PhD  
*2008-2009 President*



# Nominate now for ALPHA Hall of Fame

The ALPHA Hall of Fame Committee is now accepting nominations to the 2009 Hall of Fame Class. The induction ceremony will be held in conjunction with the Awards Luncheon at the 2009 meeting in Mobile. Criteria and the nominating form can be downloaded from the ALPHA Web site at [www.alphassoc.org](http://www.alphassoc.org).

The completed nomination form can be sent, along with the letters of support, to Ruth Harrell at P.O. Box 626, Flomaton, Ala. 36441.

Please send your nominations in as soon as possible.

## Alabama Public Health Association Hall of Fame Criteria

The ALPHA Hall of Fame is intended to complement current ALPHA Awards and recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the enhancement and advancement of ALPHA.

The Hall of Fame was established by the association in May of 2007.

### Selection Criteria:

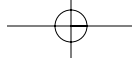
1. The name of the recognition is the "ALPHA Hall of Fame."
2. To be considered for the ALPHA Hall of Fame, an individual must be or have been a member of ALPHA for at least 10 years.
3. The nominee must have made, or is making, a significant contribution to ALPHA through membership growth, advancement of ALPHA and public health, and improvement of the organization, (ALPHA).
4. Nominee may be living or deceased.
5. Any current member may present a nominee to the ALPHA Hall of Fame Committee. The Hall of Fame Committee shall consist of the Hall of Fame Chairperson (appointed by the President), current Awards Committee Chairperson, ALPHA President, and two at-large members selected by the Hall of Fame Committee Chairperson.
6. After the inaugural year, a maximum of two people will be selected for induction into the Hall of Fame.
7. The nomination must include a one-page justification letter detailing why the nominee should be inducted into the Hall of Fame.
8. Each year's inductees will be introduced at the ALPHA's Annual Education Conference during the Awards Ceremony. They, or their family, will be presented with a plaque of recognition.
9. The ALPHA Hall of Fame will be printed in the conference program each year.

### *For your information...*

~ The Alabama Public Health Association has received several letters of appreciation recently, including one from the family of the late Dr. Ira L. Myers in appreciation for memorial flowers.

~ Treasurer Ross Hudson reports that ALPHA sponsored 43 health education events last year.

~ ALPHA President Albert Woolbright will be presented a Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to the Statistics Section in the government employee category. The presentation will be made Oct. 28 at the American Public Health Association annual meeting.



# Alabama Public Health Association Hall of Fame Nomination Form



**I. Name of Nominee** \_\_\_\_\_

Years in ALPHA (Must be at least 10 years) \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee Position now held, if any \_\_\_\_\_

Address Street City State (Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

**II. List positions previously held:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**III. Relate specific incidents, accomplishments or attributes which illustrate the extent to which the nominee's performance relates to the eligibility criteria for the award.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS AS NEEDED FOR ADEQUATE DESCRIPTION)

**IV. All nominations must be made by current ALPHA member**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Nominator

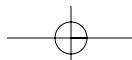
\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address of Nominator

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime telephone

**Please submit nomination and up to 10 letters of support by Dec. 15 to:**

Ruth Harrell, Chair  
Hall of Fame Committee  
P.O. Box 626  
Flomaton, Ala. 36441  
rharrell@panhandle.rr.com





# ALPHA awards criteria

*There is no greater honor than to be recognized by one's peers! The Awards Program of ALPHA is an excellent way to let your co-workers know how much their hard work is appreciated. The awards will be presented at the ALPHA annual meeting in Mobile on March 26-27, 2009, but the time is NOW to get your nominations to the Awards Committee. You may make nominations for the following awards.*

- A. The D.G. Gill Award was established in 1967 by the Association to honor an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to public health in Alabama.
- B. The Guy M. Tate Award was established at the annual session in 1974 to be presented yearly to a public health employee, group (division or discipline), or agency with 10 years or less in public health for outstanding current or recent service or contribution to public health. The service should be beyond the job assignment and be one which promotes and protects public health in Alabama.
- C. The Virginia Kendrick Award was established in 1976 to be presented annually to an individual who has provided notable service to the people of Alabama while serving in a supportive position in the field of public health.
- D. The Frederick S. Wolf Award was established in 1982 to recognize an individual who has been active in public health at the local level for more than 10 years; who has demonstrated efficiency, dedication and professionalism in delivery of public health services; and who has provided unselfish community services in areas unrelated to public health.
- E. The Ira L. Myers Award for Excellence was established and was presented for the first time in 1987. The intent of this award is to honor Dr. Myers for his accomplishments by recognizing an individual, group, or organization who, through excellence in work, has made a significant impact on some aspect of public health in Alabama. Nominees are not required to have a direct affiliation with or represent any specific discipline, group, or organization. Rather, they should represent excellence in effort and a significant achievement toward the promotion and protection of public health.

**The deadline for receipt of all nomination materials is Dec. 15, 2008.**

For more information contact David Pettway, Awards Committee Chair, P.O. Box 990, Montgomery, Ala. 36101-0990, davidpettway@adph.state.al.us

## *Apply for Ira L. Myers Scholarship*

Now is the time to submit applications for the Ira L. Myers Scholarship. The Ira L. Myers Scholarship is a \$6,000 scholarship provided to an individual who has been accepted to the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health's Master or Doctor of Public Health program. Scholarship recipients must be accepted for admission. For further information please contact Ricky Elliott at 251-867-5765 or by email at relliott@adph.state.al.us.

# Nominate for ALPHA Awards by Dec. 15 deadline



ALPHA Awards Committee Chairman David Pettway and his committee have developed an ambitious plan of action for health professionals and institutions in order to ensure they have an excellent slate of nominees from which to select the 2009 ALPHA award winners. The committee plans to solicit nominations from hospitals and institutions and has developed an action plan for public health personnel encouraging them to submit nominations. The committee especially wants to recognize those working in the community.

Serving on the Awards Committee are the following members from different areas of the state and their assigned areas: Health Department employees, Michelle Brooks, Lisa Martin, Shelia Puckett; Medical Employees, Trina Griffin, Shelia Duncan; Community, Gwen Lipscomb, David Pettway, Victor Rohler; Internet, Michael Jones; Presentation, Mim Gaines; Trophy Procurement, Michael Jones.

The committee has developed instructions to assist in preparing letters of support to accompany the nomination form below. Please contact any of the members for assistance in completing your nominations.

## Alabama Public Health Association Award Nomination

(This form is available at [www.alphassoc.org](http://www.alphassoc.org))

\_\_\_\_\_ Gill Award                      \_\_\_\_\_ Tate Award                      \_\_\_\_\_ Kendrick Award  
\_\_\_\_\_ Wolf Award                      \_\_\_\_\_ Ira L. Myers Award

Date Nomination Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

I. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Nominee/Position now held, if any

\_\_\_\_\_

Address Street City State (Zip)

II. List positions previously held and organizations with which the individual may be associated (such as civic, church and community activities) relevant to the proposed award:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

III. Relate specific incidents, accomplishments or attributes which illustrate the extent to which the nominee's performance relates to the eligibility criteria for the award.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

IV. All nominations must be signed: (by current ALPHA member)

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominator

\_\_\_\_\_

Street Address of Nominator

City State Zip

Daytime telephone

**Please submit nomination and 3 or more letters of support by Dec. 15, 2008, to:**

David Pettway, Awards Committee Chair  
P.O. Box 990  
Montgomery, AL 36101-0990  
(334) 206-5046  
[davidpettway@adph.state.al.us](mailto:davidpettway@adph.state.al.us)

# *Nominations are open and we are looking for you*

Now is a wonderful time to get involved in ALPHA. The ALPHA Nominating Committee is now accepting nominations for the following offices:

- ~ Vice-President
- ~ Recording Secretary
- ~ Treasurer
- ~ American Public Health Association Alternate Delegate
- ~ Southern Health Association Alternate Delegate

If you are interested in being nominated for one of these positions, call any member of the Nominating Committee. You can find out more details about these offices by going to the ALPHA web site at [www.alphassoc.org](http://www.alphassoc.org) and clicking on "Bylaws." You may also contact the person who currently holds this office. A listing of all Board Members is on page 1 of this newsletter.

Members of the Nominating Committee are Chairperson Annie Vosel (334-206-2959), Brenda Causey (256-315-4950), Bart Crabtree (256-340-2113), Thresa Dix (334-206-3377) and Jackie Holliday (334-295-1000).



*Alabama* Public Health Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 990, Montgomery, Alabama 36101-0990